SUBJECTS.

the expediency of interfering in the matter and said that the lines on which help was sought for should be definitely stated. The Member said that, in former days, Managers used to be appointed with the sanction of Government but that subsequently they came to be chosen by the community. The present situation complained of by him was due to the disagreement among the members of the community. He requested that, in consideration of all the above circumstances and in the interests of the welfare of the community, Government might be pleased to appoint proper Managers for the mosques. It should be the duty of the Managers to look after the performance of the services in the mosques, manage the properties belonging to them, keep correct accounts of all assets and liabilities, maintain a register of marriages and divorces, and the like. In cases of proved misconduct, the Manager might be dismissed by Government and a successor appointed instead. A General Manager should also be appointed for each division to supervise the conduct and work of the Managers of that division. In conclusion, he prayed that the matter might receive the sympathetic consideration of Government.

Dewan's reply.—His Highness' Government feel that they would not be justified in intervening in a matter like this without first taking power to do so by legislation. Before, however, we resort to legislation, it is necessary that we should satisfy ourselves that there *is* such a volume of mismanagement in regard to these institutions and of dissensions among the members of the Mahomedan community as would justify legislation. The Peishkars will be asked to interview the leading Mahomedans in the different divisions and ascertain and report what their views are. On receipt of the reports of the Peishkars, His Highness' Government would consider if any further action should be taken, and if so, on what lines it should be.

IX.—Miscellaneous.

83. Introduction of Railway into South Travancore.

Mr. M. D. Daniel (Member, Town Improvement Committee, Nagercoil) said that the introduction of the railway into South Travancore would be useful in two ways. It would, in the first place, afford facilities for travelling. In the next place, it was calculated to open up the commercial resources of the country. He contended that the question had been long before the public and that a survey of the tracts had been made at much cost. There were further no natural obstacles and the line would yield a respectable

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

SUBJECTS.

return. In regard to the funds required, he suggested that either a loan might be raised from the affluent citizens of the locality, or might be drawn from the rich endowments of temples, if necessary on payment of interest. He requested that Government might see their way to consider the question as favourably as possible.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestion of the Member is noted.

54. Betterment of the economic and industrial condition of the State.

Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappilla (Member, Kottayam Taluk) said that the necessity for the early adoption of measures for improving the economic and industrial condition of the State had been brought up by him at the third session of the Assembly and the subject was also pressed on the attention of Government last year. He observed that it was the duty of all civilized Governments, besides keeping internal peace and carrying on the administration, to make the people industrially prosperous and economically happy and independent. The examples of Germany, Japan and England would clearly show that, without aid from Government, no industrial regeneration was possible. In India, Baroda had led the way, for the active encouragement held out by H. H. the Gaekwar in the Kala Bhavan, the State tramway and the State banks recently opened, showed what a Government could do in the matter. Except in a few isolated measures adopted now and then, it was regrettable that in Travancore the question had not received the earnest attention of Government nor was a steady and consistent policy pursued so far. He admitted that the people of the country were also partly to blame in the matter. The energies of the more intelligent and more educated among them, who were best able to start industrial or economic schemes, were unfortunately spent in some department of the public service.

In the present conditions of the country, it was imperative that the Government should step in and by their example show to the people the possibilities that lie in them. The Member said that he would only make the following suggestions and request that Government might be pleased to take them into their early consideration :—

(1) That State Banks should be opened.

(2) That Co-operative Credit Societies should be established, either independent of or attached to the State Banks.

(3) That an industrial survey of the State should be made. An industrial conference might also be held and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly